



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

February 23, 2005

Dr. Richard N. Boyd, Program Director
Directorate for Mathematical and
Physical Sciences
Division of Physics, 1015 North
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Boyd:

This letter is to confirm the state of South Dakota has been, and remains, deeply committed to help facilitate conversion of the former Homestake gold mine into the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL). Because past action is often the best predictor of future behavior, I thought the best way to demonstrate South Dakota's commitment to this project is to briefly summarize our efforts to date.

Shortly after I assumed office, I became personally involved in negotiations with representatives of the owners of the former mine in an effort to find a way to facilitate the transfer of the former mine for use as an underground laboratory. On January 12, 2004, after nearly 1 year of negotiations, the state of South Dakota entered into an Agreement in Principle with Homestake Mining Company. This agreement provides for the transfer of the former underground mine for the purpose of converting it into the DUSEL.

During its 2004 session, the South Dakota State Legislature passed, and I signed, legislation enabling the transfer and creating the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority (SDSTA), all as provided for by the Agreement in Principle. As part of the enabling legislation, the legislature appropriated in excess of \$14 million in state funds. Each of the bills passed both houses nearly unanimously.

In September 2004, I appointed the Board of Directors of the SDSTA. The board has appointed an executive director, and is actively engaged in the business of bringing the laboratory to Homestake. The fiscal year 2006 budget for my office includes more than \$670,000 to assist in the ongoing operations and efforts of the SDSTA. The Homestake laboratory project is a linchpin of my "2010 Initiative" (www.2010initiative.com) for educational and economic development in South Dakota.

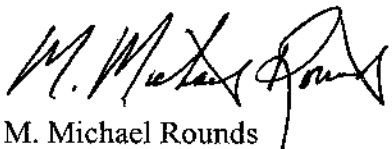
South Dakota believes Homestake offers the best opportunity for the National Science Foundation to develop a DUSEL. The property is available for use with no competing non-scientific uses. The underground spaces are huge, with depths to 8,000 feet and over 370 miles of drifts at many different levels. Accordingly, it can concurrently accommodate many scientific disciplines. There are over 500 acres of surface property and many substantial buildings that can be easily converted for use for science, education and outreach. Located among the northern peaks of the beautiful Black Hills, the location is very attractive to scientists and others who will be involved with the laboratory.

There remains extremely broad-based support for the project at both the state and local levels. There is no serious opposition to the construction and operation of a laboratory at Homestake.

At the urging of the scientific community, we are currently taking action to develop laboratory space at the 4,850-foot level, which would be the deepest underground laboratory space in the United States. We believe this will help facilitate future development of an even deeper laboratory space. Our plan is intended to enhance and complement the National Science Foundation's long-term goals for a deeper laboratory.

On behalf of the state of South Dakota, I pledge our continued commitment to cooperate with the National Science Foundation in this exciting opportunity to develop and construct a DUSEL at Homestake. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Michael Rounds", with a stylized flourish at the end.

M. Michael Rounds

MMR:ls

HOMESTAKE MINING COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

BCE Place, Canada Trust Tower
Suite 3700, 161 Bay Street, P.O. Box 212
Toronto, Ontario CANADA M5J 2S1

Tel: (416) 861-9911

Fax: (416) 861-2492

February 17, 2005

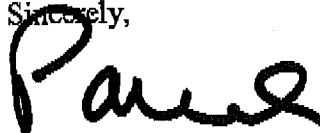
Mr. David Snyder
Executive Director
South Dakota Science and Technology Authority
P.O. Box 8329, 625 9th Street
Rapid City, SD 57709

Dear Mr. Snyder:

I understand that the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority is preparing to submit its proposal to the National Science Foundation for the next phase of the study for a National Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory at the Homestake Mine site in Lead, South Dakota. I want to assure you, the Authority, the professionals in the science community, and the National Science Foundation that Homestake Mining Company remains a strong supporter of South Dakota proposal.

As you know from our discussions, and from Homestake's actions over the past three years—including our Agreement in Principle with Governor Rounds—we believe that the Homestake Mine presents a unique opportunity for underground science. We share the view expressed by the Governor and the majority of the science community that the advantages offered by the Homestake site cannot be matched by other potential sites that have been studied. We intend to continue to work with South Dakota and the Authority to make the laboratory a reality.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Garver

PJG/tlw

South Dakota
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

PO Box 8329 _ Rapid City, SD 57709-8329 _ (605) 394-5251 _ Fax: (605) 3945254

February 23, 2005

As Executive Director of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority I confirm that the Authority and its Board of Directors are firmly committed to supporting the Homestake Collaboration and its Principal Investigator, Dr. Kevin Lesko.

The Authority was established for the very purpose of providing the vehicle through which the DUSEL could be created in the former Homestake mine. We share the goal of the members of the Homestake Collaboration of attracting the DUSEL to South Dakota.

Thank you.



Dave Snyder
Executive Director
South Dakota Science & Technology Authority
P.O. Box 8329
Rapid City, S.D. 57709

David W. Snyder
Executive Director
Email: David.Snyder@state.sd.us

February 10, 2005

The National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

National Science Foundation:

With pleasure I write to extend the recommendation of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) that NSF select the Homestake Mine in South Dakota as the location for the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL).

The confluence of three significant factors makes the Homestake Mine site the most logical location for DUSEL.

First and foremost, the depth of the Mine and substantial resources at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology provide a unique opportunity to create the environment for success of this effort. The Mine, itself, as an already established appropriate physical environment, combined with the resources of SDSM&T, which is truly a marvelous treasure within South Dakota's system of higher education, will help ensure a rich National resource, if developed.

Second, South Dakota, through a substantial state financial investment, has recently demonstrated an exceptional commitment to research and development, per se. While most states in the Western region and throughout the nation have been disinvesting in higher education, South Dakota has been increasing its investment, despite the same financial constraints that have faced other states, and they are almost unique nationally in their explicit increase in research and development. In selecting South Dakota as a partner, therefore, you would be selecting a state as a partner that has demonstrated its commitment in both rhetoric and action.

Third, the Western region would bring unique opportunities for partnership beyond state boundaries that are, frankly, unusual in this country. The strength of WICHE as a regional organization, with more than fifty years of tested experience in interstate collaboration, is a testament to this region's comfort in working together. Indeed, locating DUSEL in South Dakota would create opportunities for both research and curricular collaboration through other national labs located in the West such as the Sandia and Los Alamos Labs in New Mexico, the Idaho National Laboratory, the Northwest Regional Lab in Washington and Livermore Lab in California. These research centers work as regional resources today. Locating DUSEL in South Dakota would have the symbiotic benefit of bringing the West together around DUSEL's mission and bringing South Dakota more directly into interaction with other scientific and research efforts throughout the West.

In addition to these strong assets that the Homestake Mine site would bring to NSF's scientific and research portfolio, such a lab would also obviously bring great benefit to Western South Dakota. But, indeed, this too would be a two-sided benefit. The Black Hills of South Dakota are among the most beautiful and enjoyable geographic areas of this country. The romance and beauty of the area offer an exceptional lifestyle for the scientists who would work in such an environment.

With great enthusiasm and without any reservation the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education recommends the Homestake Mine for selection as the DUSEL site.

Sincerely,



David A. Longanecker
Executive Director



Office of the Project Director
Box 2202, SH153
South Dakota State University
Brookings, SD 57007-0896
Telephone: (605) 688-6228
Fax: (605) 688-4611

February 23, 2005

National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

I am writing in support of the proposal to convert the Homestake Gold Mine into the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL).

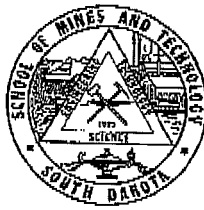
South Dakota is an EPSCoR state because in the past we have not built the research infrastructure that allows us to successfully compete for federal R&D funding. Consequently, science and engineering research does not have the visibility that they do in many other states.

In the last 15 years, however, significant progress has been made in advancing a South Dakota research agenda through focused infrastructure development activities. The creation of DUSEL would be a tremendous validation of this effort. It would demonstrate that some of the world's best science and engineering can in fact be done here. It would provide science and engineering research with the visibility that is needed to take the next step forward towards building state-wide support for EPSCoR's goal of building a research infrastructure that contributes not only to our academic institutions but to South Dakota's economic well-being.

On behalf of South Dakota's EPSCoR program, I look forward to a positive decision regarding the state's submission.

Sincerely,

James A. Rice
Executive Director
South Dakota EPSCoR



SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

February 18, 2005

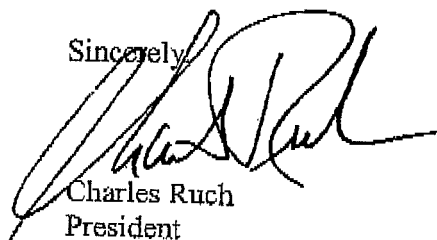
Dear National Science Foundation:

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) is highly supportive of the establishment of the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory at the former site of the Homestake Mine, Lead, SD. Because we are a science and engineering university, our interest is especially great due to the potential for basic science and engineering research that could be performed at such a facility. We look forward to collaborating closely throughout a number of different fields that could include such disciplines as physics, earth sciences, and engineering. The faculty and students of our institution will benefit greatly to have the opportunity to interact with the scientists and engineers that the facility will attract. We understand that the impact of the DUSEL on the educational environment of our particular region will be very great.

We also recognize the economic impact that will be associated with the DUSEL. Not only will we see the effects of simply the operational aspects of the facility but also we anticipate that the laboratory will provide an engine and a focus for a suite of innovative scientific and engineering enterprises. This type of development is welcomed in our area and is already being encouraged through a number of initiatives by the State of South Dakota and our institution, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Therefore, we see the effects of establishing a laboratory in the Black Hills as affecting a much wider area than the immediate vicinity of the facility.

As the selection and construction of the DUSEL proceeds, we look to ways in which our institution can facilitate the process. The core mission of SDSMT deals directly with science and engineering. Consequently, we see the success of the DUSEL program to have the potential to benefit SDSMT directly, but just as importantly, the entire of this part of the United States.

Sincerely,



Charles Ruch
President

Charles M. Turbiville

South Dakota House of Representatives Lawrence County - District 31

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this correspondence as a local letter of endorsement regarding the conversion of the Homestake Mine at Lead, S.D., into the National Underground Laboratory now under consideration by the National Science Foundation.

The town of Lead has a history as rich and deep as the gold mine that came to represent its economic and social livelihood. Unfortunately, after 125 years of operation, the mine was closed in the 1990s, leading to the loss of more than 1,400 high-paying jobs in the region.

Today, the prospect of a National Underground Laboratory at Lead presents new opportunities for the community, the Black Hills region and, indeed, the State of South Dakota. As such, NSF will find those in an official capacity at the municipal, county and state level ready and willing to assist the organization with preliminary plans, implementation of those directives and monetary assistance where required.

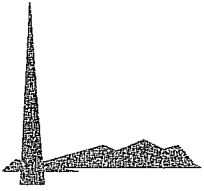
The Black Hills offer an unparalleled quality of life. Encompassing roughly 1.5 million acres in extreme western South Dakota, the Black Hills are home to the largest concentration of parks, monuments and memorials in the U.S., including national icons such as Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse mountain memorials. From alpine meadows and clear-running streams, to free-roaming wildlife, the Black Hills are among the nation's most popular visitor destinations.

The proposed neutrino lab at Lead represents what could be the most significant catalyst for economic development in the region since publishing magnate George Hearst established the Homestake Mine in 1876. I urge you to give thoughtful consideration to this unique opportunity to convert the mine into the nation's premiere underground research facility.

Sincerely,



Rep. Charles M. Turbiville
State of South Dakota



February 17, 2005

FEB 18 2005

Dave Snyder
Executive Director
South Dakota Science & Technology Authority
P.O. Box 8329
Rapid City, SD 57709-8329

National Science Foundation,

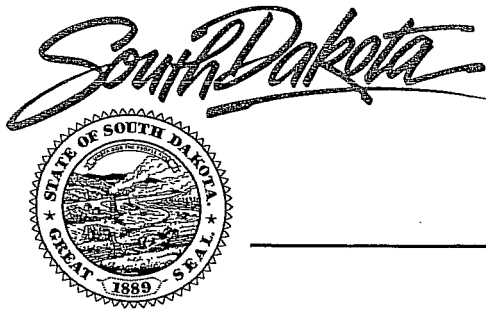
Black Hills State University ardently supports the conversion of the Homestake Mine to the DUSEL. The creation of the DUSEL will provide tremendous research opportunities for our scientists. In fact, Black Hills State University physics professors and their students have previously worked with University of Pennsylvania researchers on the solar neutrino experiments at the 4,850 foot level.

Our biology faculty, who have a state-of-the-art DNA laboratory, see immense potential for underground research in their field. Our Center for the Advancement of Science and Mathematical Education is eager to become involved in the educational aspects of DUSEL. This entity, with 5 million dollars in NSF funding, has extensive experience in outreach activities in science and mathematics. Each year a dozen or so graduates of these programs go on to successfully complete doctoral programs in the sciences and mathematics, a reflection of the quality of our faculty and the strong emphasis they place on student undergraduate research. Moreover, our Center for Tourism Research, funded through a federal grant for 1.5 million dollars, would love to become involved in efforts to promote the closed mine, its geology, history, and artifacts, as a tourist attraction.

All-in-all our faculty would be delighted at the opportunity to participate in the stimulation that would come from interactions with this nation's leading scientists, and would do all possible to bring these scientists to campus to stimulate research interests in our students.

Yours truly,

Thomas O. Flickema
President



DEC 28 2004

BOARD OF REGENTS

306 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 200
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501
(605) 773-3455/FAX (605) 773-5320
<http://www.ris.sdbor.edu/>

December 17, 2004

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Eugene C. Loh, Program Director
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Division of Physics
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Dear Dr. Loh:

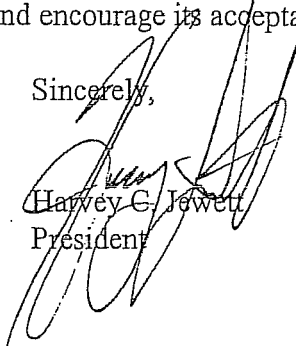
The South Dakota Board of Regents has reviewed materials regarding the proposed Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) at Homestake Mine, in South Dakota. The Board of Regents is totally committed to supporting the National Science Foundation in this nationally important scientific endeavor and will pledge whatever Regental system resources are necessary, insofar as is appropriate and possible, to help ensure it is successful in meeting its goals and objectives.

The South Dakota Board of Regents believes this proposal provides a unique opportunity to dramatically strengthen the research, education and outreach opportunities in the science and technology fields and economic development potential for a region that has had limited resources along with substantial disadvantaged populations.

This proposal also comes at a time when the regional governmental and educational institutions have developed strategies for making significant increases in the variety and strength of their graduate programs in science and technology. Further, the South Dakota Board of Regents authorizes and encourages its member institutions to support the proposal, to be active participants in research with the proposed laboratory through both collaborative and outreach efforts. The South Dakota Board of Regents authorizes the Education & Outreach(E&O) committee of collaborators on the project to include their name and logo as part of the E&O website for documenting partners and supporters.

We strongly support the proposal and encourage its acceptance.

Sincerely,


Harvey C. Jewett
President



February 24, 2005

Dr. Richard Boyd, Program Director
The National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

National Science Foundation:

The Midwest Higher Education Compact has reviewed materials regarding the proposals for a Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL) at Soudan, Minnesota and the Homestake Mine, in South Dakota and has found these as a significant opportunity to further the education mission in these regions. The Midwestern Higher Education Compact supports these proposals and encourages their acceptance.

While others can comment on the scientific merits of the proposals, as an organization concerned directly with the educational opportunities, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact recognizes these proposals as unique opportunities to dramatically strengthen the education and outreach opportunities in the science and technology fields for regions that have had limited resources along with challenges of disadvantaged populations.

These proposals also come at a time when the regional government and educational institutions have already established initiatives with the goals of making significant increases in the variety and strength of their graduate programs in science and technology. The conjunction of regional economic and educational initiatives with the creation of a national laboratory, as well as the regional need for such initiatives, presents the opportunity for these programs through collaboration and synergy to have a dramatic impact in education and outreach extending beyond the benefits of the primary scientific activities.

The Midwest Higher Education Compact authorizes the Education & Outreach (E&O) committee of collaborators on the project to include their name and logo as part of the E&O website for documenting partners and supporters.

Sincerely,

Larry Isaak, President

Cc: Dr. Robert H. Bruininks, President, U of MN
Dr. James H. McCormick, Chancellor, U of MN
Dr. Thomas E. Sullivan, Senior VP and Provost, Academic Affairs U of MN
Marvin L. Marshak, Professor of Physics Institute of Technology, U of MN
Dr. Kevin Lesko, Senior Physicist, Institute of Nuclear and Particle Astrophysics, LBL
Dr. Robert T. Perry, Executive Director, SD State Board of Regents System Office

Midwestern Higher Education Compact

1300 South Second Street, Suite 130 • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55454-1079 • Telephone: (612) 626-8288 • Fax: (612) 626-8290
E-Mail: mhec@mhec.org • Web: www.mhec.org



Date: February 23, 2005
To: National Science Foundation
Re: Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

Black Hills Vision offers its unanimous and enthusiastic support for the Homestake S2 Application to become the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. We hope our endorsement carries significant weight with the reviewers for the following reasons:

Who we represent !

Black Hills Vision is a regional economic development alliance of over 100 Black Hills Cities, Counties, Banks, Utilities, Individuals, Businesses and Community Organizations. The 36 members of the Black Hills Vision Board of Directors have committed a minimum individual pledge to regional economic development of \$50,000. Many pledges are in the 6 figure category. The Black Hills Vision Board of Directors includes representatives, Mayors and Commissioners from 7 Black Hills Communities and 4 Counties. All of the Black Hills leading regional and local banks, and its two largest electric utilities are represented on the Black Hills Vision Investor Council, along with almost all of the Black Hills Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Groups.

Black Hills Vision is unaware of "any" voiced local, regional or state wide opposition to Homestake becoming the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory !

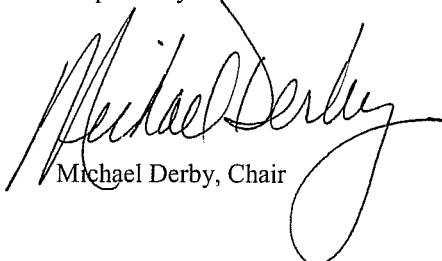
What we have done and want to do !

Black Hills Vision has raised in excess of \$3,000,000 to promote a regional economic development opportunity environment. A cornerstone of the use of these funds is the commitment of \$1,150,000 towards the development, marketing and utilization of a DUSEL at Homestake. In response to Governor Rounds commitment to growing South Dakota's research and development infrastructure through his 2010 Initiative and the State Legislatures vision for making Homestake into a National Laboratory, Black Hills Vision has already committed \$300,000 of this \$1,150,000 budget to the creation of a long range Technology Corridor road map for the region. The first phase of this work has just been completed by Battelle TPP, a division of Battelle Memorial Institute with the second phase scheduled to begin in the spring of 2005. Black Hills Vision is committed to a regional technology based economic development initiative centered on the Homestake DUSEL, local industry and our two state sponsored universities, the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and Black Hills State University.

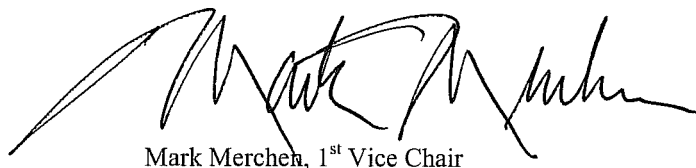
Finally, Black Hills Vision offers to Governor Rounds and the South Dakota Science & Technology Authority Board and its Executive Director; its enthusiastic support and unreserved confidence in their execution of a National Laboratory effort at Homestake.

Respectfully Submitted:

Respectfully Submitted:



Michael Derby, Chair



Mark Merchen, 1st Vice Chair

Black Hills Vision surpasses goal

Tuesday's \$50,000 pledge by Lawrence County Commission put Black Hills Vision, the regional economic-development group, over its \$3 million fund-raising goal.

Mike Derby, president of the Black Hills Vision board, first met with commissioners eight months ago to inform them of the goal.

Black Hills Vision hopes to funnel its \$3 million into five efforts already under way. The

list includes:

- Keeping Ellsworth Air Force Base off the base-closure list.

- Expanding commercial air service at Rapid City Regional Airport.

- Building a business incubator at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

- Creating more affordable housing in the Black Hills.

- Promoting a National Underground Laboratory in the former Homestake Mine and creating a Black Hills Technol-

ogy Corridor.

Recently, Black Hills Vision collaborated with Battelle Memorial Institute, an Ohio-based consulting firm, to encourage the type of research-and-development work that could blossom into a technology corridor.

If the former Homestake Mine becomes a national underground laboratory, it is expected that the lab would spin off various public and private research projects in the Black Hills.

Another Battelle arm already manages five other national laboratories under contract with the federal government. Derby said the lab is a large part of Black Hills Vision's plan.

"We hope to be home to technology-based companies, and with the lab heading in the right direction, we feel confident that's going to happen," he said.

More than 100 investors, including businesses, individuals and public entities, have con-

tributed to the cause.

To celebrate the group reaching its \$3 million goal, Derby is organizing a massive group photo of all of the Black Hills Vision investors at 2:30 p.m. Monday in front of Homestake Mine headframe in Lead.

Before the photo shoot, David Snyder of the South Dakota Science & Technology Center will be briefing the investors during a 2 p.m. presentation at the Homestake Visitor Center.

To make a pledge, Derby

said, call 381-0992 or meet at the Homestake Visitor Center at 2 p.m.

Derby said Black Hills Vision hopes to play a role in creating 7,500 new jobs in the region by 2008. Currently, 860 jobs are created each year in the area.

Derby said the group hopes to help increase that to 1,500 a year.

For more information about Black Hills Vision, e-mail info@blackhillsvision.com or call 719-3583.

Black Hills Vision Investor Council

As of 2/24/2005

1	Ainsworth-Benning Construction	54	Jack First, Inc.
2	American Memorial Life Insurance Company	55	Jacobs Motors
3	Anonymous	56	** Jenner Equipment
4	Bangs, McCullen, Butler, Foye & Simmons	57	Jet Company
5	** Barker & Little, Inc.	58	K Group
6	** Belle Fourche Development Corporation	59	Ketel Thorstenson, LLP
7	Best Western Town N' Country Inn	60	Lamar Outdoor Advertising
8	Bierschbach Equipment & Supply	61	Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun, P.C.
9	** Black Hills Community Economic Development	62	** Micro Solutions, Inc.
10	** Black Hills Federal Credit Union	63	Midcontinent Communications
11	** Black Hills FiberCom	64	Moyle Petroleum Company
12	** Black Hills Harley-Davidson	65	North Western Warehouse Company
13	** Black Hills Power & Light	66	** Northwest Pipe Fittings
14	Black Hills Services	67	Northwestern Engineering Company
15	Black Hills Shooters Supply, Inc.	68	Oswald Foundation
16	Casey Peterson & Associates, Ltd.	69	** Pacer Corp
17	Cavalry, Inc.	70	** Pete Lien & Sons, Inc.
18	** City of Custer	71	Pioneer Bank & Trust
19	** City of Deadwood	72	Queen City Motors Co.
20	City of Hot Springs	73	Radisson Hotel - Rapid City
21	** City of Lead	74	Ramkota Companies
22	** City of Rapid City	75	** RAN Enterprises, Inc.
23	** City of Spearfish	76	** Rapid Chevrolet Company Inc.
24	** City of Sturgis	77	** Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce
25	** County of Custer	78	Rapid City Economic Development Foundation
26	** County of Lawrence	79	** Rapid City Economic Development Partnership
27	** County of Meade	80	** Rapid City Journal
28	** County of Pennington	81	Rapid City Regional Hospital
29	Custer State Park Resort Company	82	Ridco, Inc.
30	Dacotah Bank	83	Rock, John
31	Days Inn	84	Rushmore Radio Company
32	Dean Kurtz Construction Company	85	Security First Bank
33	DeMersseman, Robert	86	Sentinel Federal Credit Union
34	** Derby Enterprises	87	Simpson's Printing
35	Dodge Town, Inc.	88	Snyder, Dave
36	Dreyer, Mel - Coldwell Banker Real Estate	89	** Stanley J. Johnsen Concrete Contractor, Inc.
37	** Duhamel Broadcasting	90	State of South Dakota
38	Eddie's Truck Center	91	Summit, Inc.
39	Edward Jones	92	SymCom, Inc.
40	First American Title Company of South Dakota	93	Toyota of the Black Hills
41	** First Western Bank	94	** TSP Three, Inc.
42	Freed's Fine Furnishings/Furniture Mart	95	US Bank
43	GCC Dacotah	96	** Wall Badlands Area Chamber of Commerce
44	** Golden West Technologies	97	Wells Fargo Bank South Dakota, N.A.
45	Gray, Richard	98	** West Plains Engineering, Inc.
46	Great Western Bank	99	** West River Electric Association
47	Grelind Printing Center	100	West River Foundation
48	Griffin, Bill	101	Western Dakota Insurers
49	Highmark Federal Credit Union	102	Westjet Air Center, Inc.
50	Hillard, Carole	103	Whiting, Hagg & Hagg
51	Homestake Mining Co.	104	Wyoming Refining Company
52	Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce	105	Wyss Associates, Inc.
53	J. Scull Construction		

** Board of Directors -- Investors with Pledges of \$50,000 or More



23 February 2005

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Greetings:

The opportunity for the City of Lead to host the Deep Level Underground Science Laboratory is one that we collectively approve. The efforts of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority in this avenue are directly on point.

The Commission of the City of Lead has repeatedly voted and voiced strong support for the project. In addition, we offer any assistance of city services that might be needed to accomplish this goal.

When it became evident that Homestake Mining Company was closing after 125 years of operation, the citizens and the City of Lead had to look to a new horizon for development. Although that past four years have brought forth a variety of changes, Lead is still a vibrant community with an incredible will to survive. Knowing full well that the mining industry will never again be the economic backbone of our area, we join in the commitment of making science and technology the keystone for our future.

As a strong contender for the site, the focus of our community shifted to the hope that the Homestake property will once again, be the hub for local, regional and statewide industry.

We are joined with an overwhelming commitment from the state and region to make this project succeed. Please recognize the support that we bring to the table. I am confident that the National Science Foundation will not find a better site than here.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas R. Nelson
Mayor

CITY OF LEAD

The City with the ♥ of Gold

801 W. Main Street, Lead, SD 57754-1538 • Phone: (605) 584-1401 • Fax: (605) 584-1407



LAWRENCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

P.O. Box F
90 Sherman Street
Deadwood, South Dakota 57732
Voice: (605)-578-1941
Fax: (605)-578-1065

February 22, 2005

National Science Foundation

Dear Sirs:

The Lawrence County Commissioners have been approached by Dave Snyder, the Executive Director of South Dakota Science & Technology Authority, to write a letter of support for the conversion of the Homestake mine to the DUSEL. This letter of support is given with great gusto by the Commissioners for the DUSEL to be in our Lawrence County for the following reasons:

First, is the mine itself. The mine is already deep enough for your experiments with a stable rock formation and, in fact, has been used for many years for the experiments that you request. No other site can boast both of these advantages. Secondly, there is a knowledgeable, experienced and on-site engineer force that can tailor the mine to your wishes. Third, we have a receptive governor and state legislature that have already passed several bills to help with mine conversion. Fourth, the county has put its money where its mouth is and has recently pledged \$50,000 to the Black Hills Vision project who has as one of its main goals to use the Homestake Mine for the National Science Foundation.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our reasons for having the DUSEL project in our Lawrence County.

Sincerely,

FOR THE BOARD

Robert E. Ewing
Robert E. Ewing
CHAIR



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



23 February 2005

Dr. Eugene C. Loh
Dr. Richard Boyd
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Dr. Loh and Dr. Boyd:

On behalf of the Lead Area Chamber of Commerce, its membership and Board of Directors, I submit this letter of support for the efforts of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority.

The hard work of the Authority to establish the Homestake Mine as the site for the National Deep Level Underground Laboratory is to be commended and we wish them every success in accomplishing their goal.

The business community in Lead and our surrounding area relied heavily on the mining industry for many years. But since the closure of Homestake, our community has come a long way in rediscovering itself. Our property values remain steady, new people and businesses are moving to the town every day, and the overall attitude of the citizens' show how receptive they are to moving ahead and making things work.

There is no better site for this project ... no better area of the country to live in ... no better climate to locate this new adventure.

It is fitting that today ... "Neutrino Day 2005" ... is the day when in Lead we celebrate the prospect of striking gold again in our town. When the lab finally arrives, it will be another jewel in our crown, which we refer to as the Black Hills.

Sincerely,

Melissa Johnson, Executive Director
Lead Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development

LEAD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

309 W. Main Street, Suite A, Lead, SD 57754 • phone (605) 584-1100 • Fax (605) 584-2209
E-mail: leadcoc@mato.com • www.leadmethere.org



23 February 2005

Dr. Arden Bement, Director
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Dr. Bement:

The Board of Director's and membership of Lead Economic Area Development Corporation wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority in its work to secure the deep level underground laboratory at Homestake.

For over 125 years, the economic vitality of Lead was tied to the fortunes of Homestake Mining Company. And although our community has worked hard to discover new economic challenges, the vision of the underground lab and the opportunities that it will present, provide possibilities that are boundless.

This opportunity is not simply local in scope. The commitment of Governor Mike Rounds and the State of South Dakota to this project shows how very important it is on the state level. In addition, the pledge from Black Hills Vision to help this component of their regional economic development plan indicates its importance to their overall effort.

An impressive array of government, business and community leaders have expressed their encouragement for this project. Lead Economic Area Development joins in their commitment to support S.D. Science Authority, the state and the region in the effort to bring the underground lab to Homestake.

Please give strong consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Harley Lux", is written over a light-colored, possibly embossed, circular seal or logo.

Harley Lux, President
Lead Economic Area Development

TWIN CITY AREA DEVELOPMENT CORP.

640 W. Main Street, Suite B, P.O. Box 735, Lead, SD 57754
phone: (605) 584-3546 • fax: (605) 584-2209 • email: leadcoc@matco.com • www.lead.sd.us



GAMING • MUSEUMS • HISTORY • RECREATION

Dear members of the National Science Foundation,

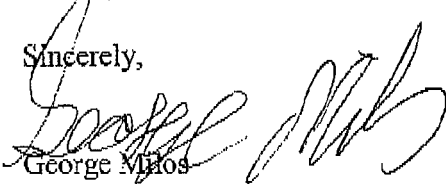
I am writing this letter in support of the Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota as your location of choice for the new underground laboratory. The residents of Lead as well as the entire Black Hills have gone through some difficult times when Homestake closed the mine. Let me assure you that our communities will do everything in our power to make Lead, Deadwood and the Black Hills a home you can be proud of.

Not only is the Homestake mine an ideal location for your lab, but the Black Hills of South Dakota offers so much more. A one million acre national forest, the Shrine of Democracy Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, the historic town of Deadwood and of course the incredibly hard working and warm residents that will work with you to make the Black Hills your home.

The Deadwood Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff would like to whole heartedly show our support in locating the new underground laboratory in Lead, South Dakota.

Thank you very much for your time and feel free to contact us if you need anything at all.

Sincerely,



George Milos

Executive Director

Deadwood Chamber & Visitors Bureau

Deadwood Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau

767 Main Street, Deadwood, South Dakota 57732 • (605) 578-1876 • Fax (605) 578-2429

E-mail: visit@deadwood.org • www.deadwood.org



NATIONAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

THE NATIONAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

National Science Foundation

February 18, 2005

Subject: Support for Conversion of the Homestake Mine to the DUSEL

Dear NSF:

National American University is a strong supporter of the proposal to convert the Homestake Mine to the DUSEL.

National American University was founded over 60 years ago in Rapid City. Now we have over a dozen campuses around the US and over 6000 undergraduate and graduate students, but we continue to be headquartered here, near the Homestake DUSEL site. I lead the On-Campus MBA program at our Rapid City Campus. We are one of five institutions of higher learning in Rapid City that offer programs in business, an indication that Rapid City is an important educational center.

Aside from the horsepower available to the Lab from the local educational institutions, let me call your attention to the talents of the business resources that are located here. Here are some examples.

- RESPEC Engineering is one of the top rated geotechnical firms in the world. They have a long-standing relationship with National Labs.
- Matrix Consultants is led by Cheryl Chapman, who led the Navy's environmental programs.

Likewise, we have people who are qualified to take DUSEL from concept to reality. Let me use myself as an example. Before becoming a professor, I worked as a nuclear scientist. Later, I was an engineering manager and regulatory lawyer for several large, federally sponsored projects, including eight large underground facilities. I worked as my firm's liaison with several National Labs. Many people here are qualified to work on the DUSEL.

I urge you to select the Homestake site for the location of the DUSEL.

Sincerely,

Bill Griffin
BS, MS, JD, MSTM

RAPID CITY CAMPUS

321 Kansas City Street • Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-4800 • (800) 843-8892 • (605) 394-4871 FAX • www.national.edu

Affiliated - The Higher Learning Commission: Member - North Central Association
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 263-0456

Central Administration
Rapid City
South Dakota

Campus Locations:

Albuquerque
New Mexico

Brooklyn Center
Minnesota

Colorado Springs
Colorado

Denver
Colorado

Distance Learning
Rapid City
South Dakota

Ellsworth AFB
South Dakota

Kansas City
Missouri

Mall of America
Bloomington
Minnesota

Overland Park
Kansas

Rapid City
South Dakota

Rio Rancho
New Mexico

Roseville
Minnesota

Sioux Falls
South Dakota



Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc.

P.O. BOX 218 • STURGIS, SOUTH DAKOTA 57785-0218

PHONE (605) 347-5837 • FAX (605) 347-5223

February 25, 2005

TO: National Science Foundation

RE: Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

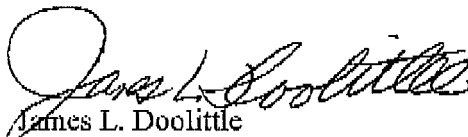
Black Hills Community Economic Development, Inc. supports the Homestake S2 Application to become the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory.

Our organization represents fourteen (14) communities from throughout the Black Hills region and our mission is to promote economic development opportunities and job creation in the Black Hills.

Black Hills Community Economic Development is also an investor and partner in Black Hills Vision which has committed major resources to a regional technology based economic development initiative centered on the Homestake DUSEL along with local industry and universities.

We strongly urge your support of the Homestake application.

Sincerely,



James L. Doolittle
Executive Director

C: Board of Directors
Black Hills Vision



Department of Education

February 17, 2005

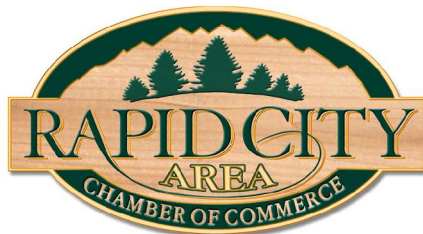
National Science Foundation

I am pleased to have this opportunity to write our support of the National Underground Science Laboratories efforts relating to the Homestake Goldmine in South Dakota. The Department of Education recognizes the importance of Science Education in our State and we feel that this project is a valuable resource for the students and staff in South Dakota.

We realize the importance of the future of our science program in the State of South Dakota and we believe that the efforts relating the National Science Foundation and the National Underground Science Laboratory in South Dakota are critical to our educational needs. We support the work conducted thus far and encourage future financial support of this valuable project.

Sincerely,

Rick Melmer, Ed.D
Secretary



February 18, 2005

National Science Foundation

via e-mail to:
Trudy.Severson@sd.us.

Dear Members of the National Science Foundation Selection Team:

The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports converting the Homestake Gold Mine into a Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory (DUSEL).

Following the close of the mine, Black Hills community leaders recognized the unique characteristics of the mine's depth, rock formations, suitable environmental conditions and other factors leading to its reutilization.

With the obvious natural resource strengths of the site, our community was readily convinced that the discussions focusing on the selection of a facility/location for a DUSEL could be directed to the former Homestake Gold Mine. Topping the list of conversion and/or redevelopment agencies with the resource base needed to develop the potential scientific benefits were our nation's scientific community and the National Science Foundation.

To complement that approach we quickly bought under consideration the concept of creating a "technology corridor" with the DUSEL and associated interests comprising a major component of the equation. Accordingly, we established an organization known as the Black Hills Vision and funded it with \$3 million in local funds. This approach was based on a consistent community development perspective first developed in the mid-1990s. At that time more than a dozen communities constituting a population of approximately 140,000 adopted a strategic visioning program to integrate the resources and objectives needed to take western South Dakota into the 21st Century.

The siting and development of the DUSEL fulfills one of the goals in our community strategic plan (Frontiers: Forging Our Future) which is to enhance the skills and technology base of our economy. The opportunities created by a DUSEL would provide talented graduates from both local and national universities to realize their academic and economic aspirations.

It would also provide the opportunity for a known number of local and regional alumni to return to positions worthy of their experience and expertise and enjoy the outstanding quality of life in the Black Hills.

There is no better, cost effective and logical use of this great resource and we strongly recommend you capitalize on the opportunity quickly.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me. Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,

James F. McKeon, CCE
President and CEO



CITY OF RAPID CITY
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

Office of the Mayor

300 Sixth Street

605-394-4110

Fax: 605-394-6793

E-mail: mayor@rcgov.org

Date: February 23, 2005

To: National Science Foundation

Re: Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

The City of Rapid City is pleased to offer its unanimous and enthusiastic support for the Homestake S2 Application to become the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. It is our hope that our endorsement will carry significant weight with the reviewers.

The City of Rapid City is proud to join with the Black Hills Vision Board as well as other elected officials from around the Black Hills communities in support of the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. The city government of Rapid City has made a financial commitment of the initial \$75,000 and the additional \$300,000 over the next four years to Black Hills Vision in support of this excellent project. The entire Black Hills region has joined together to endorse a regional technology based economic development initiative at Homestake.

As Mayor, I am not aware of "any" local opposition to Homestake becoming the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. Our city government is proud to lend our enthusiastic support to this National Laboratory effort at Homestake.

Sincerely,

Jim Shaw, Mayor



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Black Hills Corporation

Daniel P. Landguth

Chairman

E-mail: dlandguth@bh-corp.com

625 Ninth Street • P.O. Box 1400

Rapid City, SD 57709-1400

P (605) 721-2334

F (605) 721-2599

February 24, 2005

To: National Science Foundation

Black Hills Corporation, a diversified energy holding company located in the Black Hills of South Dakota, wholeheartedly endorses the closed Homestake Mine in Lead, South Dakota, as the preferred site for a deep underground science and engineering laboratory.

A state-of-the-art fiber optic network, high-speed Internet access, competitive long distance telephone rates and dependable electrical service have been, and continue to be, provided to the mine, and represent the best energy and communications infrastructure available anywhere in the world for a modern laboratory and its support facilities. In fact, the fiber optic network still exists at the 4850 foot level of the closed mine.

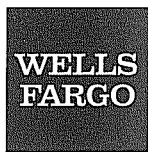
Black Hills Power, our electric utility component, serves a 9,300 square mile area which includes the Black Hills and parts of Wyoming and Montana. Black Hills Power's 230kV transmission system provides a reliable network to deliver power to the Black Hills area. Our transmission system has three separate circuits into the Kirk Substation that serves the Homestake Mine.

Black Hills Corporation and the Homestake Gold Mine grew up together over the past 120 years and have been driving economic forces and community-spirited organizations. Should the mine be transformed into an underground laboratory, I foresee a continuation of this pattern.

As a leader in regional economic development, Black Hills Corporation offers its ongoing support of the efforts by the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority and the Homestake Collaboration to have Homestake selected as the preferred site for a deep underground science and engineering laboratory.

Sincerely,

Daniel P Landguth
Chairman of the Board



825 Saint Joseph Street
Post Office Box 1040
Rapid City, SD 57709
605 394-3800

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

February 23, 2005

TO: National Science Foundation

FR: Pete Cappa

RE: Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

Wells Fargo offers its unanimous and enthusiastic support of the Homestake S2 Application to become the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory.

Wells Fargo is a diversified financial services company providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer finance for more than twenty-three million customers in twenty-three states. Wells Fargo has seventeen offices throughout the Black Hills and Western South Dakota. We have approximately two hundred employees represented in those seventeen banks. We also have several Wells Fargo Home Mortgage offices and Wells Fargo Financial offices. All of our store are decentralized and strive to satisfy all of our customers' financial needs and helping them succeed financially. They all have a vested interest in all of their communities and work for their success.

Our organization has a vested interest in the Black Hills Vision which is a regional economic development alliance with over one hundred Black Hills cities, counties, utilities, individuals, businesses and community organizations. This organization promotes economic development opportunity and has a large commitment towards developing, marketing, and utilization of a DUSEL at Homestake.

I appreciate your interest in the conversion of the Homestake Mine into the deep underground lab. With the tremendous support throughout the Black Hills Region we must work to make this become a reality. We support wholeheartedly in the execution of the national laboratory effort at Homestake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter J. Cappa".

Peter J. Cappa
Community Banking President & District Manager

PJC:rv

PO Box 90
701 St. Joseph Street
Rapid City, SD 57709

February 24, 2005

To: National Science Foundation

Re; Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

Dear Sir:

U.S. Bank wholeheartedly supports the Homestake S2 Application to become the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory. Our financial institution is a stakeholder in Black Hills Vision. We strongly believe in a regional approach to economic development. Homestake represents a unique opportunity and Black Hills Vision has put together a coalition of state, county, city and private companies in support of such projects. Regional technology based economic development initiatives is the cornerstone of our future. U.S. Bank is committed to support projects of this nature from a financial and philosophical perspective.

We are unaware of any opposition to Homestake becoming the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory and are excited about the possibility of the project becoming a reality for our region. A division of the Battelle group has been engaged to assist our region in identifying technology based economic opportunities that would be germane to our region. If we can be of any further assistance or provide additional information, please don't hesitate to call (605) 394-2021.

Sincerely,



PATRICK J. BURCHILL
REGIONAL PRESIDENT



**FIRST WESTERN
BANK**

We're more than a bank ...

February 25, 2005

National Science Foundation

This is to advise that First Western Bank whole-heartedly supports the Homestake Collaboration's S-2 site selection application for a deep underground science and engineering laboratory.

We are the largest banking system in the region we call the Black Hills with 17 banking locations sprinkled throughout. Our officers provide leadership in local communities as well as Black Hills wide organizations. The Chairman of one of our bank's Board of Directors is a member of the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority

Our organization has always been deeply involved in economic development efforts within the Black Hills area and we have strongly supported the concept of a deep science and engineering lab since Homestake elected to cease mining operations.

Based upon years of interaction with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota state governmental agencies and more recently, the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority, we believe Homestake Mine offers flexibility and amenities not available at other sites. The nature of granite rock lends itself to a most efficient filter of unwanted "noise" and the depth of 8,000 feet and 370 miles of tunnels and drifts allow for opportunities that will arise in the future.

We also believe there are unexplored opportunities that would accrue to the mutual benefit of the National Science Foundation and Black Hills universities and communities as the relationship matures.

Equally important, Black Hills schools and communities would provide educational opportunities and an enviable quality of life for the families of researchers and technicians who would be working at the site.

When considering the long-term possibilities of a deep lab, the physical attributes already mentioned and the breadth of opportunities and support available in South Dakota and the Black Hills communities, we believe Homestake is clearly the preferred site.

We enthusiastically recommend your selection of this site.

Sincerely,

Bruce E. Rampelberg
Vice President
First Western Bancorp

1750 Eglin Street
P.O. Box 3133
Rapid City, SD 57709
605.718.2265
Fax 605.718.7348

632 Main Street
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709
605.348.3322
Fax 605.348.0012

650 Flormann Street
P.O. Box 2530
Rapid City, SD 57709
605.348.4545
Fax 605.348.0341



February 23, 2005

To: Ms Trudy Severson
State of South Dakota

From: Lynn A. Hammerstrom, President/Manager
First Western Bank
P O Box 2160, 41 5th Avenue
Belle Fourche, SD 57717

Re: NSF S-2 Application

Ms Severson:

I am writing in support of Mr. Dave Snyder and the South Dakota Science and Technology Authority application for moving to make Homestake a Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

I am a member of the Black Hills Vision Board of Directors, and a member of the Belle Fourche Economic Development Corporation. I am a resident of Belle Fourche and feel that this project is most important to the continued development of the Black Hills area economy.

I trust that you will provide additional support for this, as many leading businesses and business leaders have thrown their personal and financial support behind the National Science Laboratory and the potential it has for our area.

Thank you.

Lynn A. Hammerstrom
President/Manager

Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises

KOTA TV3
518 ST JOSEPH ST
PO BOX 1760
RAPID CITY, SD 57709-1760
(605) 342-2000

KOTA TV3
KDUH TV4
KHSD TV11
KSGW TV12
RADIO 1380 KOTA

Date: February 23, 2005
To: National Science Foundation
Re: Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

I want to convey my support for the location of the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory at the Homestake location in Lead, South Dakota.

I am the President of Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises. Our company owns television and radio stations in Rapid City as well as in Spearfish, a sister community to Lead, SD, and also in the surrounding states. Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises is also a contributor to Black Hills Vision. I also currently serve on the Board of Directors of Black Hills Vision, and I am also a past-President of the Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce. My Ph.D. is from Stanford University in Management Science which is a cross-discipline program between Business, Engineering and Statistics.

I am not aware of any opposition on a local, regional or state level to the location of a deep underground laboratory in the former Homestake Mine location. When the underground laboratory is constructed at the Homestake location, it will receive Duhamel Broadcasting's full support and assistance in its public relations endeavors.

Cordially yours,



William F. Duhamel, Ph.D.
President

JET COMPANY

February 23, 2005

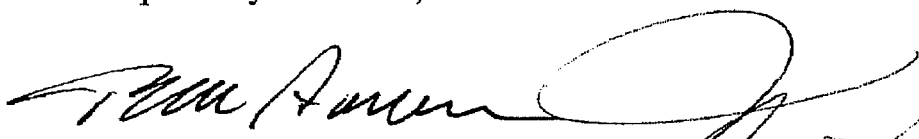
TO: National Science Foundation

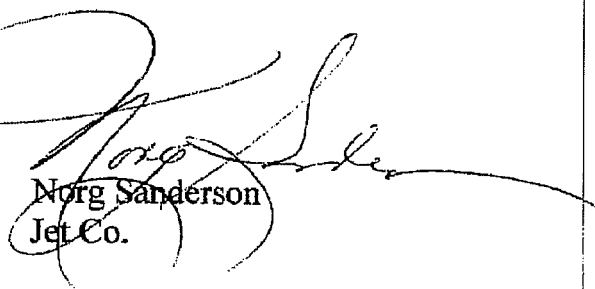
RE: Homestake S2 DUSEL Application

Jet Co. is a venture capital company located in Northeastern South Dakota and is a board member of Black Hills Vision.

Jet Co. strongly supports the goals of Black Hills Vision with respect to the Homestake S2 Application to become the NSF Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory.

Respectfully submitted,


Tom Aman
Jet Co.


Norg Sanderson
Jet Co.

JET Co.
116 S. Main St., 3rd Floor, Suite # 302
P.O. Box 267
Aberdeen, SD 57402-0267

Phone: 605-622-4590
Fax: 605-622-4633
Email: TDAF@tdafoundation.com